

The objectives of the thesis "Coping strategies of women with breast cancer" were to determine the coping strategies used by women with breast cancer, to explore relationship between coping strategies and sociodemographic variables, between coping strategies and the type of therapy, between coping strategies and the life satisfaction, and to compare results with data from other studies.

The sample consisted of 62 women diagnosed with breast cancer and treated in two hospitals (Onkologický Ústav Nová Ves pod Pleší, and Nemocnice Beroun) from 11/10/2005 to 30/3/2006. Participants were surveyed by means of a demographic data sheet, the Ways of Coping Questionnaire and the Life Satisfaction Questionnaire.

The comparison with other studies indicated that the results are quite similar. The most commonly used coping strategy among women with breast cancer is Seeking social support and the least common strategy is Accepting responsibility. Yet, there was one difference: the use of the Escape-Avoidance strategy was higher among our sample patients than among women included in compared studies. This strategy was used more by the patients treated by chemotherapy and by the patients that were unsatisfied with their lives. The younger women prefer problem-focused strategies (Confrontive coping, Problem solving and Seeking social support).

The coping process research has revealed that some coping strategies are more adaptive than others. Our output may suggest that some women suffer - due to the use of maladaptive coping strategy Escape-Avoidance - from worse psychosocial adaptation and may need a psychosocial intervention.